



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

November 8, 2000

**H.R. 2961  
International Patient Act of 2000**

*As cleared by the Congress on October 19, 2000,  
and signed by the President on November 1, 2000*

H.R. 2961, enacted as Public Law 106-406, will affect direct spending in fiscal years 2001 through 2003, but CBO estimates that the costs will not be significant in any year.

Under the visa waiver pilot program administered by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), visitors from certain foreign countries may stay in the United States for up to 90 days without obtaining a visa; under limited circumstances, these visitors may stay an additional 120 days. H.R. 2961 will permit the INS to waive this restriction for visitors who need to stay longer to receive medical treatment and who meet certain other conditions. The act's provisions are limited to 300 individuals (and their families) each year and will be effective through September 30, 2003.

CBO estimates that the cost of administering the visa waiver pilot program, which is funded by immigration fees, will increase by less than \$100,000 a year as a result of this legislation. Although H.R. 2961 could affect spending for emergency Medicaid services, CBO expects that any such costs will not be significant because the act requires individuals to show they have the means to pay for the medical treatment and their living expenses.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.